

Message Text

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61

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /021 W

----- 050267

R 061440Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6976

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, DM

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: COTONOU AIRPORT

REF STATE 41506

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED ADOLPHE LAWSON, DIR OF CIVIL AVIATION FOR UPDATE ON SUBJECT PROJECT. HE INFORMED US THAT PROJECT IS NOW MORE OR LESS IN SUSPENSE PENDING RESOLUTION OF PRESSING INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN DAHOMEY. SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO RAISE HOPES OF AIRWAYS ENGINEERING AND INVITE THEM TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL SINCE HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE PROJECT REALLY STOOD IN RELATION TO OTHER PRIORITY GOVT PROJECTS. IF MR WEBB, AIRWAYS VP, WISHES MAKE STOPOVER IN COTONOU TO BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THE AIRPORT, THEN MR LAWSON WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE HIM AND ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, LAWSON DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK THAT MR WEBB DO SO.

2. IN ADDITION, LAWSON NOTED THAT NEW MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS, APT LEOPOLD AHOUEYA (IN OFFICE SINCE 21 OCT 74) DID NOT PLACE AS MUCH EMPHASIS ON NEW AIRPORT AS HAD HIS PREDECESSOR. IN ADDITION, AHOUEYA IS NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND LAWSON IS UNABLE TO SEE HIM IN ORDER TO DISCUSS PROJECT. (WHEN BUSINESSMAN VISITED COTONOU LAST MONTH TO DISCUSS AIRPORT PROJECT, LAWSON CANCELLED DINNER WITH MIN ON GROUNDS THAT MIN DID NOT FEEL SAFE IN BEING SEE WITH A FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN.)

3. IN SHORT, EMBASSY FEELS THAT HIS PROJECT IS IN FOR AN
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INDEFINITE DELAY, AT LEAST UNTIL THE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION

CLEAR UP AND THE MIN OF PUBLIC WORKS CAN GET BACK TO WORK
AT HIS MINISTRY.
ENGLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COTONO00296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750079-0699
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750377/aaaacrom.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 41506
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: COTONOU AIRPORT
TAGS: BEXP, DM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006